

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, PINT, MILI

SUBJ: EXPECTATION SURROUNDS ALLENDE-AYLWIN TALKS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: A) SANTIAGO 3359; B) SANTIAGO 3275

1. SUMMARY. ALLENDE MET TWICE JULY 30 WITH PDC LEADERS. PRES ALSO HELD TWO MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. NO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTENTS PDC TALKS MADE BUT AMB TOLD LAST NIGHT THAT IN MORNING SESSION AYLWIN PRESENTED WELL-KNOWN PDC DEMANDS INCLUDING MILITARY ENTRANCE INTO CABINET WHILE PRES ARGUED FOR MORE TIME. GOVT REQUISITION OF STRIKING TRUCKS CONTINUES AS DOES MEDIA CONCERN WITH NAVAL AIDE ASSASSINATION. REPORT OF PS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING REINFORCES SPECULATION THAT PARTY THREATENING WITHDRAWAL FROM UP IF DEALOGUE GOES TOO FAR. END SUMMARY.

2. PRES ALLENDE MET TWICE JULY 30 WITH PDC PRES AYLWIN AND V.P. SEN. OSVALDO OLGUIN. ACCOMPANYING PRES AT MIDDAY MEETING WERE MINDEF ALMEYDA AND MININT BRIONES. JOINING THE GROUP IN ITS EVENING SESSION BEGINNING AT 22:15 WERE MINECON CADEMARTORI AND MINPUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT MARTONES. NEITHER ALLENDE NOR AYLWIN HAS ISSUED
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STATEMENT ON TALKS, THOUGH LATTER HAS REPORTEDLY PROMISED

PRESS STATEMENT TODAY. ON LEAVING MONEDA AFTER MORNING MEETING, AYLWIN AND OLGUIN GENERALLY TIGHTLIPPED BUT INDICATED THAT CONVERSATIONS FRANK AND CONDUCTED IN GENTLEMANLY MANNER. AT THE CLOSE OF EVENING SESSION AYLWIN ACKNOWLEDGED TO REPORTERS THAT THREE AREAS AND TRANSPORT STRIKE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. HE STATED THAT "UP TO NOW, NO AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED" BUT THAT CONVERSATIONS HAVE "CLEARED UP SOME POINTS."

3. SEN. PRES. FREI TOLD AMBASSADOR AT DINNER LAST NIGHT THAT FIRST SESSION OF TALKS DEVOTED TO PRESENTATION PDC POSITION AS HAS BEEN EXPRESSED PUBLICLY BY AYLWIN AND OTHERS AND WHICH SPECIFICALLY CONCERN DISARMING OF WORKERS, RETURN OF FACTORIES TAKEN ON JUNE 29, PROMULGATION PASSAGE THREE AREAS AMENDMENT, AND EXECUTIVE RESPECT FOR OTHER BRANCHES OF GOVT. FREI STATED THAT AYLWIN TOLD PRES. THAT NATION TIRED OF POLITICAL GAMES AND MISTRUSTFUL OF BOTH GOVT AND PDC. THEREFORE ACTION AND NOT WORDS IMPERATIVE AND ONLY MANNER OF INSTILLING NECESSARY CONFIDENCE IS CREATING OF GOVT IN WHICH MILITARY HAS STRONG CABINET PRESENCE AND CONTROL OF OPERATIONAL LEVEL GOVT BUREAUCRACY AS WELL. FREI STATED THAT IN MORNING MEETING ALLENDE WAS USUAL CHARMING SELF AND DEVOTED HIS PRESENTATION TO ATTEMPT TO GAIN SOME TWO WEEKS GRACE FROM PDC BY ARGUING THAT HE COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO MAKE MAJOR GOVT CHANGES OVER-NIGHT.

4. PRES CONDUCTED TWO MEETINGS NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WHICH SANDWICHED DAYTIME PDC-PRESIDENTIAL ENCOUNTER (AYLWIN USED TIME TO MEET WITH PDC LEADERSHIP.) COUNCIL AGREED THAT NAVY COURTS AND NOT CIVILIAN JUSTICE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROCESSING THOSE ARRESTED IN RELATION TO ARAYA ASSASSINATION. PRESS CONTINUES TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON JOSE RIQUELME BASCUNAN, ATTACKING OR SUPPORTING HIS SUPPOSED CONFESSION WHICH ALLEGEDLY IMPLICATES LEFT EXTREMISTS IN ASSASSINATION. HOWEVER, HARD FACTS STILL SCARCE AS NEITHER POLICE NOR MILITARY AUTHORITIES, FOLLOWING CUSTOMARY CHILEAN LEGAL TRADITION, HAVE MADE FORMAL DECLARATION CONCERNING SUPPOSED "CONFESSION."

5. JULY 30 ULTIMA HORA CARRIES ARTICLE ON WEEKEND'S PS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH MOST EXTENSIVE REPORTAGE TO DATE. ULTIMA HORA NOT RENOWNED FOR ITS ACCURACY; HOWEVER, ITS TIES CONFIDENTIAL

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TO PS ARE ACKNOWLEDGEABLY EXCELLENT. ARTICLE STATES THAT PS CONSIDERS DIALOGUE WITH PDC FREISTA LEADERSHIP AS "USELESS" GIVEN PDC'S SEDITIOUS INTENT TO OVERTHROW GOVT. HOWEVER, CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECIDED "NOT TO SAY NO" TO PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS AT DIALOGUE, BUT DID THREATEN THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO CONFORM TO PDC "MINIMUM CONSENSUS" FORMULA WHICH NEGATED REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WOULD BE CAUSE FOR PS TO CONTEMPLATE WITHDRAWAL FROM GOVT.

6. GOVT CONTINUING TO REQUISITION STRIKING TRUCKS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, APPROXIMATELY 1500 VEHICLES HAVE BEEN TAKEN. MANY TRUCKS HAVE BEEN MOVED TO SANTIAGO'S PARQUE O'HIGGINS, WHERE GOVT REPORTEDLY TRYING TO REPAIR MANY WHICH HAVE PRESUMABLY BEEN INTENTIONALLY DISABLED BY OWNERS. BUS AND TAXI OWNERS IN VALPARAISO, BIOBIO, MAGALLANES AND ANTOFAGASTA HAVE REPORTEDLY JOINED STRIKE. JUAN JARA, PRESIDENT OF RODADO (CONGLOMERATE ASSOCIATION WHICH GROUPS OWNERS OF BUSES, TAXIS, TRUCKS, ETC) QUOTED IN MORNING'S PRESS AS NOTING "GREAT PRESSURE" FROM HIS MEMBERS "FOR RAPID SOLUTIONS" TO PROBLEMS AFFECTING TRANSPORT OWNERS AND INDIGNATION OVERTRUCK REQUISITIONS AND JAILINGS OF SOME STRIKE LEADERS. INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE REPORTED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF COUNTRY INCLUDING ATTEMPTS TO DYNAMITE RAILWAY TRACKS AND BRIDGES. STRIKE EFFECTS MOST NOTICEABLE IN EXTREMELY LONG LINES AT THOSE SANTIAGO GAS STATIONS WITH SUPPLIES. ACCORDING TO GOVT, ONLY 40 PER CENT OF SANTIAGO'S FUEL TANK TRUCKS WORKING. PRESS REPORTS SCARCITY OF FARM PRODUCE IN MARKETS AND OPPOSITION MEDIA CLAIM BREAD CRISIS, DUE TO LACK OF FLOUR, IMMINENT.

6. IN OTHER LABOR CONFLICTS APPROXIMATELY 15,000 PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES ON 48-HOUR EXTENDABLE STRIKE OVER ECONOMIC ISSUES UNRELATED TO TRUCK OWNERS DEMANDS. WORKERS AT SANTIAGO'S SALVADOR HOSPITAL HAVE DECIDED ON A 24-HOUR STRIKE BEGINNING THURSDAY IN THEIR LONG-SIMMERING DISPUTE WITH HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES.

7. COMMENT. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT FIRST SESSION OF ALLENDE-AYLWIN TALKS DEVOTED LARGELY TO LAYING OUT WELL KNOWN PDC POSITIONS. INFORMATION ON NIGHT SESSION
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